

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8972

UNCLAS BOGOTA 5084

FOR: SER/INC; S/NM

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJ: FUNDS FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROJECT

AGREEMENT CUSTOMS OF COLOMBIA

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL/COMMENTS ON FUNDING PROGRAM
BELOW.

1. THE CUSTOMS EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF INTERDICTION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND NARCOTICS HAS BEEN SLOW IN GAINING MOMENTUM, BECAUSE OF INTERNAL PERSONNEL PROBLEMS, BUT IS NOW BEGINNING TO MOVE APACE. TRAINING OF THE CUSTOMS JUDICIAL POLICE CONTINUES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. PERSONNEL QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION WORK ARE UNDERGOING TRAINING IN A COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE AND NARCOTICS COURSE. TRAINING (BY U. S. CUSTOMS) IS UNDERWAY FOR 15 GOC CUSTOMS NARCOTICS COURSE INSTRUCTORS. FOUR GOC CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN NARCOTICS IN THE U. S. US-FINANCED COMMODITIES ORDERED IN 1974 ARE BEGINNING TO ARRIVE. H DISTRIBUTION OF IN-COUNTRY AND ARRIVING COMMODITIES BASED ON AN UP-DATED PLANNED PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY.

2. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WITH PROPER
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EQUIPMENT WORKING NARCOTICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORTS, PORTS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHERE CUSTOMS HAS
RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY. TRAINING FOR JUDICIAL POLICE
AND NARCOTICS WORK (APPROX. 45 CUSTOMS PERSONNEL)
NOW UNDERWAY WILL ALLOW FOR THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF
CUSTOMS INSTRUCTORS WHO WILL TRAIN SELECTED CUSTOMS
PERSONNEL WHO WILL WORK IN THE SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS
UNIT. A LAWYER HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE
CUSTOMS NARCOTICS UNIT. HE IS ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING
IN THIS PART OF THE TRAINING AND SELECTION OF QUALIFIED
PERSONNEL FOR INSTRUCGORS.

3. THE CUSTOMS JUDICIAL POLICE HAS PERSONNEL WORKING IN THE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS OF ELDORADO IN BOGOTA AND PALMASECA
IN CALI AS PART OF THE ONLY COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE
NARCOTICS UNITS WORKING IN COLOMBIA. THE DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF CUSTOMS HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT WITH PERSONNEL
OTHER LIKE UNITS. AT THE SUGGESTION OF THIS MISSION,
CUSTOMS SENT A VEHICLE, FOUR RADIOS WITH BATTERY CHARGERS
AND A BINOCULAR TO THE COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE NARCOTICS
UNITNUN BOGOTA TO BE USED IN THE ELDORADO AIRPORT.
DURING 1974, CUSTOMS PERSONNEL SEIZED APPROX. 244,403 KILOS
626 GRAMS OF MARIJUANA AND 40 KILOS, 274 GRAMS OF COCAINE.
CUSTOMS SEIZURES IN 1975 TO DATE ARE APPROX. 25,303 LBS
OF MARIJUANA AND 168 LBS. OF COCAINE.

4. TENTATIVE PLANS ARE THAR OPERATIONS CENTERS THROUGHOUT
COLOMBIA WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, COMMUNICA-
TIONS AND TRANSPORTATION BECOME AVAILABLE. FOR THE
EXPANSION OF THEIR MARINE CAPABILITY, CUSTOMS HAS ORDERED
FIVE BERTRAM MARINE VESSELS COSTING SOME \$38,000
EACH FROM A U.S. COMPANY. TWO (2) WORKING
IN TURBO NOW AND 3 IN PROCESS OF ASSIGNMENT. WITH THE
PLANNED EXPANSION OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION OPERATIONS
WITH TRAINED PERSONNEL IN THE PORTS, AIRPORTS AND IN
LAND-INSPECTION POINTS, THE MISSION WOULD PROPOSE
SUPPORT FOR GOC CUSTOMS NATIONAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION
TOTALING \$157,000 FOR FY 75: \$26,000 FOR BOATS AND
MOTORS (5 EACH) \$5,000 FOR REVOLVERS. 38 CAL.
(59 EACH); 10,000 FOR VHF RADIOS (8EACH) FOR BERTRAM
VESSELS; \$65,000 FOR RADIOS UHF (25 EACH) W/EQUIP; \$3,000
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FOR NARCOTICS DISPOSAKITS (100 EACH); \$36,000 FOR PEEPS
6 EACH); \$10,000 OTHER COSTS. OTHER COSTS WOULD INCLUDE
TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS.

5. A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT OUTLINED ABOVE HAS BEEN REACHED
WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS OF COLOMBIA AND IF
THE FUNDS INDICATED ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION,
A PRO-AG COULD BE CONSUMATED PROMPTLY.

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